



Committee of Emergency Situations & Civil Defense, ECHO and UNDP Tajikistan
Project "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan"

Minutes of the REACT Meeting
12th of December 2007, UNDP Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, Head of Population Protection Dept, CoES

Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

1. Introduction

Chair of the meeting, Mr. Jamshed Kamolov greeted the participants and announced the Agenda of the meeting. He informed that point 8. "Presentation of draft disaster risk management curriculum for schools in Tajikistan by CoES" of the previously disseminated Agenda was moved to the next REACT meeting in January 2008.

Mr. Kamolov also passed the message from the Chairman of CoES, who was not able to attend the meeting. Among other points the Chairman underlined achievements by REACT team in disaster response and highlighted main unresolved issues in 2007:

- Issue of legal status of REACT partnership was not resolved;
- Signature of the joint Memorandum of Understanding between CoES and REACT partners was suggested by CoES to streamline information exchange and improve coordination;
- CoES requests REACT partners submit annual reports on their DRR projects by December 20th, 2007 in order to allow CoES submit the general report to the Government of Tajikistan by December 25th, 2007.

2. Disaster information and updates:

a. Overview of disasters in Tajikistan for 2007

Mr. Kamolov, CoES, made an overview of the disasters occurred in first 9 months of 2007 and response provided by the Government and REACT partners. According to CoES there were 76 disasters in 2007 in Tajikistan. Disasters killed 36 persons and caused economic damage for the amount of more than 20 mln US Dollars.

- Earthquakes - 27
- Landslides - 4
- Floods and mudflows - 33
- Avalanches - 3
- Storm winds – 4
- Heavy snowfalls - 4
- Epiphytoty (locust invasion) – 1

In total 5,729 houses were affected by various disasters, 674 of them were destroyed completely. 118 Schools and preschools institutions, 26 Hospitals and polyclinics, 35 Cultural and social facilities were affected by disasters.

b. Earthquake in Rasht district on the 22nd of July 2007

Mr. Ikrom Soliev, UNDP DRMP, briefed the participants about the recovery progress in Rasht district:

Jamoat	Damage (Nº of houses)			Planned for the next year	
	Completely destroyed	Fully constructed			
Kalai Surkh	145	124	86%	21	14%
Nusratullo Mahsum	66	60	91%	6	9%
Total	211	184	87%	27	13%

Current needs:

- 4,000 l of kerosene for lighting
- 316.5 MT of coal

Reinforcement of Houses:

Jamoat	Affected houses	Totally and 50% destroyed	Need to be reinforced
Kalai Surkh	702	484	330
Nusratullo Mahsum	721	304	206
Total	1,423	788	536

c. Project on Reconstruction and Reinforcement of houses in Rasht district

Mr. Ikrom Soliev, UNDP DRMP, informed the participants on the project on reconstruction and reinforcement of houses in Rasht district, funded by SDC and to be implemented by UNDP DRMP in partnership with CoES. UN WFP is also intending to support the project through its "Food-For-Work" programme.

The project foresees support to construction of 14 houses (10 in Jamoat Kalai Surkh and 4 in Jamoat Nusratullo Makhsum) and reinforcement of 11 houses (5 in Jamoat Kalai Surkh and 6 in Jamoat Nusratullo Makhsum) of the most vulnerable population, combined with the "on the job" trainings on seismic resistant construction techniques for the population of the district. Preparation phase will last from January to March 2008 and the construction and training activities will be conducted from April to August 2008.

Presentation of the project is available on www.untj.org.

Responding to Ms. Marydean Purves' question on the procedures to store the procured construction materials (planned for January – February 2008), Mr. Soliev explained that agreement was reached with CoES office in Rasht to use their warehouse for storage of the materials during the winter. Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, UNDP DRMP, added that CoES warehouse currently needs renovation, and most likely funds from UN OCHA and UNDP BCPR would be used for partial rehabilitation of the warehouse.

3. Draft Agreement between CoES and DRM stakeholders (CoES - 15 min);

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, CoES, presented the suggestion from CoES to sign a joint Memorandum of Understanding between CoES and DRM actors in Tajikistan. CoES values highly contribution of REACT partners to disaster risk reduction in Tajikistan, but still observes cases of uncoordinated project implementation in different regions, without involving of the specialists of CoES in the field and without informing the CoES about the projects. Main results of the projects implemented, i.e. reports, maps, schemes etc. are not submitted to the CoES, which prevents from further use of these results in disaster preparedness, prevention and risk mitigation planning.

The MoU, once signed, will allow:

- Ensure coordination of actions, establishment of relations to the mutual benefit and organization of the fruitful cooperation;
- Develop and implement joint projects in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and disaster mitigation;
- Coordination of site selection and planned project activities;
- Introduction of the required changes in the plans of the respective departments of the CoES, according to the planned project activities;
- Avoid overlapping of activities by different organizations in different regions of Tajikistan
- Organize fruitful work of international organizations in project areas;

Draft MoU will be circulated shortly through REACT Secretariat for feedback/comments by REACT partners.

Replying to Ms. Marydean Purves' question on the status of the individual MoUs with CoES, initiated by different NGOs, Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov explained that the suggested MoU would cover general

coordination and cooperation issues between the signatories, for each project there should be a separate project-specific MoU.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg, SDC, underlined that the damage from disasters was estimated by CoES at 20 mln USD, the real indirect damage is obviously much higher. Mr. Anderegg also noted that the probability of the major destructive earthquake in Dushanbe should be realized by the Government and potential of the Seismic Monitoring Network in Tajikistan, supported by SDC, should be fully used by the relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Zlatan Milisic, WFP, inquired about availability of any official statistics on the economic damage, caused by disasters. Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, CoES, informed that by January 10th, 2008, CoES would produce statistical report on disasters for the year of 2007, which could be made available for REACT partners.

4. Presentation by Mr. Charles Kelly, consultant to UNDP DRMP

Mr. Charles Kelly, consultant to UNDP DRMP, presented his objectives of assignment in Tajikistan and outlined approach to their achievement as below:

1. Support to development of the National Preparedness and Response Plan:

- Build on experience and procedures
- Expand scope
- Working group led by CoES
- Link-in REACT members to overall response planning
- Process of planning is as important as the document produced

2. Support to improvement of REACT response capacities:

- Working Group approach
- Disaster damage and needs assessment forms and methodology
- Rapid Response Team Operational Guidelines
- Relief Distribution Guidelines
- Training on methodologies and guidelines
- Links to Cluster approach and IS/GP/BP

3. Support to the institutional strengthening of REACT:

- Terms of Reference of the REACT groups
- REACT Sectoral Group ToRs based on Cluster approach
- Support Regional REACTs
- REACT-CoES Linkages
- Core REACT Team

4. Support to Inter-Agency Contingency Planning.

- Contingency planning process
- Linked into UN contingency planning (IACP)
- Contingency plan practice and revision

Mr. Kelly's assignment started in December 2007 and is expected to be accomplished by July 2008.

Ms. Purves, Mission East, inquired on whether the UN Global Compact will be tackled within the consultancy mandate. Mr. Kelly explained that his mandate is more on operational level, whilst there's another consultancy planned on support to the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy. Such issues as Global Compact could be considered within that mandate.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg, SDC, suggested sharing experience with the newly established DRM coordination structure in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Sharifov, UNDP DRMP, noted the positive features of the coordination approach used by Kyrgyz colleagues: their partnership was registered within the Prime-Minister's office since the establishment, and costs of the partnership are covered by the members of the partnership.

Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, CoES, inquired whether such hazards as radioactive waists would be considered in the National Preparedness and Response Plan. Mr. Kelly confirmed that the Plan should consider all the hazards in Tajikistan, including the mentioned one.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov informed that both development of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and National Preparedness and Response Plan were included into CoES work plan for 2008 which was yet to be approved by the Government. UNDP is ready to support CoES in these initiatives, also through Mr. Kelly's assignment.

5. Establishment of REACT in GBAO (FOCUS- 10 min);

This issue was not discussed and was moved to the next REACT meeting in January 2008.

6. Establishment of REACT in Kurgan Tube (DRMP – 5 min);

This issue was not discussed and was moved to the next REACT meeting in January 2008.

7. Presentation of draft disaster risk management curriculum for schools in Tajikistan (CoES - 10 min);

This issue was not discussed and was moved to the next REACT meeting in January 2008.

8. Sectoral Groups update;

a. Health /WHO:

WHO is supporting introduction of GIS application in the work of the Ministry of Health. To implement this initiative a Working group from the representatives of the relevant stakeholders, including MoH and WHO, was formed; in January 2008 a workshop would be conducted to present results achieved by the Working Group.

WHO jointly with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan conducts trainings for the population on the first aid provision. Trainings of Trainers (ToT) were accomplished, next step would be trainings for the population by the Trainers, accomplished ToT.

Ms. Zulfiya Azizova, MoH representative, presented project on GIS introduction to the MoH system. Presentation is available on www.untj.org.

b. Education and Water and Sanitation /UNICEF:

Ms. Nargis Artushevskaya, UNICEF, updated the participants about the activities of WES Sectoral Group:

1. Membership list for the REACT sectoral group on water and sanitation was updated, since some of the organizations (like COOPI, CESVI, etc) presently do not operate on watsan in Tajikistan.

2. IACP - the issue of the IACP update was discussed at the last WES Coordination meeting and after that individually with some of the agencies.

There is a need now to develop a unified format for the IACP update, and support from OCHA and UNDP DRMP is required. To discuss this particular issue, WES coordination / REACT sectoral meeting is planned for the next week (21st of December 2007).

3. Over the last two weeks, international consultant on WASH cluster lead approach, Mr. BB Samantha worked in Tajikistan with the purpose to prepare capacity mapping of governmental and international agencies in Tajikistan with regards to the emergency preparedness and response. The consultant met with the major partners of the REACT. The report is expected to be prepared in December 2007 and the findings will be shared with the REACT partners.

c. Non food and Shelter /UNHCR. – There were no updates reported.

d. Food /WFP

Mr. Zlatan Milisic, WFP, informed that WFP provided required input into IACP update process.

WFP – Tajikistan with the support of the regional office in Cairo intends to update the status of Food Security in the country down to district level and in some areas – to jamoat level. This assessment considers not only natural hazards, but also other threatening factors. Report is expected by January 2008 and will be shared among REACT partners. This report is planned to be updated on a quarterly basis.

9. News from REACT partners;

There was no news from partners.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th of January, 2007.

You may email your suggestions for the upcoming agenda and any information (in English and Russian) on upcoming events for the monthly bulletin to anvar.sabzaliev@undp.org

Annex 1: List of Participants, REACT Meeting on 12th of December 2007

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